

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) A method for closing an opening in a wall of a body lumen, comprising: [The method of claim 1,]
advancing a distal end of an elongate member through a passage and into a body lumen;
positioning an obturator distally beyond the distal end of the elongate member along the
passage within the body lumen;
expanding one or more expandable elements of the obturator;
withdrawing the obturator from the passage until an expandable element contacts an inner
wall of the body lumen, thereby providing a tactile indication of the inner wall of the body lumen;
advancing a clip having tines into the passage over the elongate member until the tines of the
clip engage the wall of the body lumen; and
withdrawing the elongate member from the body lumen and passage, leaving the clip to
substantially close the opening in the wall of the body lumen, wherein [when the elongate member is
withdrawn,] the tines [automatically at least partially move] of the clip translate towards a planar
configuration to substantially close the opening.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [1] 2, further comprising providing a carrier assembly on the elongate member, the carrier assembly carrying the clip.

4. (Twice Amended) The method of claim [1] 2, wherein the tines comprise primary tines and secondary tines, and wherein advancing the clip comprises:

puncturing the wall of the body lumen with the primary tines until tips of the primary tines enter the body lumen; and

engaging [puncturing] the wall of the body lumen with the secondary tines[;].

[wherein the primary tines and the secondary tines puncture the walls without contacting the one or more expandable elements of the obturator.]

5. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the passage is defined by a sheath.

6. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein the sheath is split when the elongate member is advanced through the passage.

7. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the clip is constructed of a superelastic material.

8. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein the clip is nitinol.

9. (New) The method of claim 4, wherein the secondary tines further include tissue stops.

10. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the expandable elements of the obturator retract simultaneously with the advancing of the clip.

11. (New) The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of expanding the clip prior to advancing.